

As a former employee of Sinclair Broadcasting, I strongly urge you, as members of the FCC, to critically investigate the company's plans to force their stations to air a documentary critical of Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry just days before the general election.

This anti-Kerry smear campaign by Sinclair's owners is an obvious example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest under a license granted by you, the FCC. When large companies like Sinclair and ClearChannel control the airwaves, we viewers/listeners get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Earlier this year, Sinclair's ABC affiliates were ordered not to air a broadcast of "Nightline" where anchor Ted Koppel simply read, without comment, the names of those killed in the Iraq war. Now, the company is again blatantly showing it is acting in the personal interest of the owner, a strong Bush supporter, rather than the public interest.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. These actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I strongly petition the FCC to revoke Sinclair's license to use the public airwaves to advance a personal agenda.

Thank you.
Steve Raml
Glendale, AZ